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TELESCOPES MAKING FOR OBSERVING THE ECLIPSE OF AUGUST, 1896.

Mr. BRASHEAR has just completed a six-inch photographic lens (of forty feet focus) for the LICK Observatory, which will be used by Professor SCHAEBERLE at the August eclipse in Japan.

The University of Tokio will have an eight-inch photographic doublet, and Dr. CHARLES L. POOR, of the Johns Hopkins University, a four-inch doublet, both of which are intended for use on the same occasion. E. S. H.

[TRANSLATION.]

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF BELGIUM,
BRUSSELS, February 19, 1896.

To Professor EDWARD S. HOLDEN, etc.

"I have the honor to enclose several copies of my note on the 'Observation of Shooting Stars,' and I beg you to distribute them to those astronomers of the LICK Observatory and to those members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific who are interested in such work."* . . .

PAUL STROOBANT.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS OF ASTRONOMERS.

I beg to return the sincere thanks of the LICK Observatory to the many astronomers and friends of the Observatory who have been kind enough to present their portraits to the library, in answer to our request. The collection is already very large, and it has not only a present but a permanent value.

Respectfully,

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MOUNT HAMILTON, 1896, March 21.

COMET 1855 II.

This comet was discovered by DONATI, at Florence, June 3, 1855, and independently by DIEN, at Paris, and KLINKERFUES, at Göttingen, the following night. It remained under observation only a short time, and not enough observations were obtained to enable a satisfactory investigation of the elements of its orbit to be made. In all, about thirty observations were secured; only one of them was made after June 19th. That was the Berlin observation of June 30th, which gave very discordant results when compared with the ephemerides constructed from elements that were based on the earlier observations.

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* Copies may be had on application to the Secretary of the LICK Observatory.

DONATI computed elliptic elements, from the observations of June 3d, 5th, 11th, and 17th, as follows:—

T 1855 May 30.23256 Florence M. T.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lrrr} \omega & 22^\circ & 39' & 5''.4 \\ \Omega & 260 & 15 & 7\ .3 \\ \pi & 282 & 54 & 12\ .7 \\ i & 156 & 52 & 51\ .6 \end{array}\right\} 1855.0.$$

$\log q$ 9.7542137.
$\log e$ 9.9960301.
a 62.40234.

These elements give a periodic time of 492.95 years. If they are correct, the previous return of the comet was in 1362. The elements of the Comet of 1362 do show considerable resemblance to those above, as was pointed out by DONATI; but the elements of the Comet of 1362 were derived from the rough and uncertain Chinese observations, so that very little dependence can be placed in them.

SHULZE also computed elliptic elements of the Comet 1855 II, using the Berlin observation of June 30th as his sixth normal place. His elements gave 14¼ years as the periodic time of the comet. He did not regard his elements as satisfactory, for the second, third, and fourth normal places were not well represented. I do not know of any later investigation of these elements.

In some respects, the elements of the Comets 1855 II and 1896 *a* are similar; in others, they are quite different. Both have retrograde motion, and their inclinations and perihelion distances are nearly the same. They differ very considerably in longitude of ascending node and longitude of perihelion. They may originally have belonged to the same family of comets; they certainly are not identical.

These comets pass considerably within the orbit of *Venus*. *Venus* and *Mercury* were both in the vicinity of the Comet 1855 II at the time it was under observation. The least distance of *Venus* was not very great, yet it does not seem probable that its perturbations could have changed the elements of the comet's orbit to any considerable extent. William J. Hussey.

March 17, 1896.

MERIDIAN CIRCLE OBSERVATIONS OF COMPARISON STARS.

The following star-places have been published elsewhere, in connection with the comet observations, and are collected here, that the list of stars observed, with the numbers corresponding, may be complete. Other short lists have been printed in these *Publications* V, 32; and VII, 42.

The number of the star gives the hours, minutes, and seconds of Right Ascension for the epoch 1900. The initials refer to the observer by whom the comet comparison was made.

No.	R. A.	Decl.	Mag.	
		1894.0.		
090646	$9^h\ 6^m\ 22.73^s$	$+44^\circ\ 44'\ 45''.3$		Comet *b*, 1893.
093751	9 37 27.77	+42 32 16 .9		R. H. T.
095954	9 59 32.98	+40 5 50 .2		
		1895.0.	Mag.	
011414	$1^h\ 13^m\ 59.10^s$	$+\ 7^\circ\ 50'\ 35''.1$	8¼	Comet *e*, 1894.
011738	1 17 22.42	+ 8 11 19 .9	8	E. E. B.
011820	1 18 5.16	+ 8 31 45 .5	9¾	
012113	1 20 57.85	+ 8 59 4 .8	9	
		1895.0.		
003045	$0^h\ 30^m\ 29.58^s$	$+\ 5^\circ\ 47'\ 3''.4$	8¾	Comet *a*, 1895. E. E. B.
		1895.0.		
013759	$1^h\ 37^m\ 43.79^s$	$+\ 4^\circ\ 33'\ 36''.9$	9	Comet *a*, 1895.
014707	1 46 51.61	+ 6 1 57 .5	9¼	W. W. C.
014915	1 48 59.67	+ 6 32 47 .7	9	
015004	1 49 48.34	+ 6 45 20 .0	8¾	
015153	1 51 37.80	+ 6 34 38 .8	9¼	
020342	2 3 26.85	+ 7 55 34 .3	8½	
		1896.0.		
021532	$2^h\ 15^m\ 19.53^s$	$+\ 9^\circ\ 31'\ 46''.9$	8¼	Comet *a*, 1895. W. W. C.
		1896.0.		
135102	$13^h\ 50^m\ 49.78^s$	$+\ 0^\circ\ 7'\ 0''.1$	8½	Comet *c*, 1895.
135215	13 52 3.28	+ 0 10 6 .2	9	R. G. A.

R. H. Tucker.